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Advancement of women

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Human rights questions

Letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General

I have the honour to write to you, in my capacity as Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations, to inform you that the Islamic Group met on Monday, 2 October 2000, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and discussed the situation arising from the attempt to link Islam with violence against women, as depicted in a film recently shown at United Nations Headquarters.

The Group expressed its serious concern over the matter and adopted a statement, the text of which is enclosed (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 107, 108 and 114.

(*Signed*) **Hasmy** Agam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Malaysia
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Islamic Group

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Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement adopted by the Islamic Group at its meeting held at the Ambassadorial level at Untied Nations Headquarters on Monday, 2 October 2000

1. The member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference expresses regret over the attempt to link the content of a film recently shown at United Nations Headquarters on the issue of crimes of honour with Islamic practices and Quranic Verses, and to single out a particular religion on the pretext of incidents that are not exclusive to Muslim communities. The Conference member States strongly feel that this portrays a vivid example of discrimination, prejudice and stereotyping of Islam which runs contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as provisions of human rights instruments.

2. It is also a matter of concern that a State Member of the United Nations has been directly involved in this event. It is also regrettable that the facilities and equipment of the United Nations were used to serve such a counterproductive purpose.

3. The member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, like other States Members of the United Nations, in keeping with their obligations under the universally accepted instruments on human rights, have all committed themselves to opposing any form of arbitrary or extrajudicial killing of any human being, particularly women, in the name of passion, honour or race. Conference member States have always been in the forefront of condemning the killing of persons, especially women and girls, on any pretext, and have unreservedly raised their voices in world conferences and in other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, condemning and opposing all forms of violence against women.

4. The member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference wish to reiterate that there is no linkage whatsoever between the killing of women and girls under any societal or communal banner, including in the name of passion, honour or race, and the teachings, practices and values of Islam. Throughout history, Islam has condemned such acts and has remained firmly in the vanguard of combating harmful traditional practices and prejudices that may lead to the killing and harassment of women and girls in any society.